

Enjoy Your Independence Day Celebrations!

Minimizing Firework Risk through Accountability and Responsibility!



Don't overestimate your child's ability to use good judgment. Set family boundaries. Only adults should light fireworks. Children are naturally curious. Be sure fireworks and any matches and lighters are secured out of sight and reach of children. Be sure to discharge all fireworks devices so there are no leftovers to tempt curious children.

In 2003, there were over 1300 fireworks-related emergency incidents in Washington resulting in over \$2 million in property loss. We must all work together to reduce this tremendous loss through the responsible and safe use of fireworks.

You may be held Accountable: Remember there may be legal consequences for any injuries or damages caused by the irresponsible use of fireworks. These consequences range from being charged with malicious mischief to assault or a gross misdemeanor. Examples include possession of illegal explosive devices such as fireworks that have been tampered with or altered. A gross misdemeanor can bring a fine of up to \$5,000 and/or one year in prison.

Take Responsibility:

- Set family boundaries. Talk with family members and guests about the fireworks laws for your area. Laws restricting or banning the use of fireworks in cities and counties are listed on the fireworks website.
- M80's, M100 or M1,000 are not fireworks, they are **illegal explosive devices**. They

can cause amputations and other severe injuries. Their use or possession has legal consequences.

- Fireworks are prohibited on school properties. In 2003 there were 14 fireworks-related fire incidents at schools, one caused \$62,500 in damages.

Be Prepared... before you light fireworks

- Use legal fireworks, available at licensed outlets.
- Store fireworks out of children's reach.
- Keep pets safe indoors.
- Always keep water handy.

Be Safe... when lighting fireworks

- Only adults should light fireworks.
- Use outdoors only.
- Do not throw fireworks or hold in your hand.
- Protect your eyes.
- Light one firework at a time and move away quickly.
- Never relight a "dud".

Be Responsible... after you finish

- Soak used fireworks in water.
- Be considerate--clean up used fireworks.
- Keep matches and lighters away from children.

To learn more about public fireworks displays, child safe activities and other information regarding fireworks, check our web site at:

<http://www.wsp.wa.gov/fireworks/default.htm>. Or, call 1-888-29JULY4



celebrate safely campaign

Office of the State Fire Marshal